

Remarks

Claims 1-5 and 18-26 are currently pending. The examiner has rejected claims 1-5 and 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Donnan, U.S. 5,935,109. The examiner has also rejected claims 1-5, 18-24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wozencroft, U.S. 5,718,688. In addition, the examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oslander et al., U.S. 5,984,378.

The examiner has stated that claim 25, if rewritten in independent form, would be allowable.

The examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide antecedent basis for "an outer tube" and "an inner tube."

Claims 18 has been amended to include all the limitations of claims 19, 20 and 25, and is deemed in condition for allowance. Claims 21 and 24 have been amended to depend from claim 18. Claims 1-5, 19-20, and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration is requested.

The indication of allowability of claim 25 is gratefully acknowledged. Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 19-20, and 25, and is therefore deemed in condition for allowance.

The objection to the specification is deemed moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-5. The rejections of claims 1-5, 18-24, and 26 are likewise deemed moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-5, 19-20, and 25, and the amendments to claims 18, 21, and 24.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that each of the examiner's rejections has been overcome, and that this application is in condition for allowance. Such is respectfully requested. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned if doing so would be of benefit in advancing prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn C. Brown, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn C. Brown', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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GCB/cjb

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